Dear Paul,

7/8/80

Based on two TV shows I cautioned you about your glowing endorsement of Tony Summers and his book.

I've borrowed a copy, read the first 50 pages and relevant notes, his so-called cast of characters, and checked his index.

It is a work of slickest, most professional dishonesty, as with your intelligence and subject-matter knowledge you should have perceived.

As a scholar you should have been aware of his avoidance of primary sources and you knew from reading the book that he was well acquainted with them.

To the point I've reached, save with Manchester, where he had no alternative and was entirely uncritical, he has credited no author with the work of that author.

This is the standard procedure and method of the literary whores in the field, as by now you also should know.

Where he gives generous credit, it is to one not published, Mary Ferrell, to whom in any event he was much indebted - but where it was safe for his posturing. What is pertinent there, the original analysis of the police tape, is missing. Gary Mack did that work and it is published. So he pretends that the safely credited source, the HSCA, originated it. He has little choice than to puff the second-handing HSCA because he uses it to avoid all the stolen primary sources and as his own credentials.

In his so-called cast of characters, he does not have Carolyn Arnold, his big and uniquely his deal on coast-to-coast TV but he does have the obviously phoney Clark Comer. Comer may be important enough for his cast of characters, but he is not indexed. If you can't trust a book's index, what can you trust of the book?

If you can't trust a book author's spelling of names in his cast of characters, a shill if there ever was one in any event, what can you trust about the author's knowledge. Like Ernesto Rodriguez. Or Alvaredo, without the matronymic, which is present in all official records I've seen. What can his sources really be? Strong indication of the second-hand and verbal.

And his supposedly generous credits to his former associates, which excludes so many of them - all but Cathy and Scott of those who came here?

Once again, as an old man with more experience, I caution you about getting carried away by emotional involvements, by desires, by seeing what you like and being willing to forget all else, including what maybe you don't like. Once again I warn that this kind of whoring destroys the credibility of all serious work and exculpates those who deserve legitimate criticism, like the errant federal agencies.

Sincerely,